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Sports pg 12

Woods arrives at Masters early

Snowboarder dies at Whistler

KHYBER PASS A snowboarder died yesterday after falling headfirst into a hole created by wind-fallen timber in Whistler, according to the RCMP.

It appeared the man suffocated after being unable to breathe in the deep snow.

He was spotted by a witness who called police, dug the man out of the snow and attempted to administer CPR.

They were located by the Whistler Ski Patrol in a heavily treed area known as the "Khyber Pass" and despite continued resuscitation attempts the man died of his injuries. The snowboarder's name is being withheld until his family is notified.

METRO VANCOUVER

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Celebrity Buzz pg 18

Pattinson says fame ruining social skills

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Canucks clinch division

Playoff tickets set to go on sale, online and by phone, on Wednesday

JEFF HODSON
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For the third time in four years, the Vancouver Canucks clinched the Northwest Division with a 4-3 overtime win last night over the Minnesota Wild.

And with only three games remaining, the franchise needs two victories to cement their first 50-win season — a remarkable year that could also see Henrik Sedin become the first Canuck to win the Art Ross Trophy (most points) and potentially even the Hart Memorial Trophy (MVP).

As of last night, Henrik Sedin had 106 points, four up on Washington's Alexander Ovechkin.

Former Canucks captain Markus Naslund almost won the Art in 2003 with a 104-point effort, but lost out at the buzzer as Peter Forsberg recorded three points in his final game to win the trophy.

The Canucks, who clinched a playoff spot on Friday following their 5-4 shootout victory over the Anaheim Ducks, announced yesterday that a limited number of first-round playoff tickets would go on sale Wednesday.

The 1,000 or so tickets for the Round 1 home games will be available through Ticketmaster, online or over the phone. They will not, however, be available at the GM Place Boxoffice or Ticketmaster Ticket Centres to discourage fans from lining up for hours.

Tickets begin at $115 and are restricted to a maximum of four per household. The tickets will be distributed when the playoff dates are confirmed.

Season ticket holders, including Blue Line waitlist members, will be given an opportunity to purchase their seats before the public on-sale.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Canucks' Alex Burrows, left, and Ryan Kesler celebrate Kesler's goal against the Minnesota Wild during first period NHL hockey action last night in GM Place. The Canucks clinched top spot in the Northwest Division in the 4-3 OT win. More coverage, page 12.

Olympian aiding charities in 'active resting period'

AUTO SHOW Olympic Gold medallist Jon Montgomery is proof that nice guys finish first.

The skeleton racer made a charity appearance at the Vancouver International Auto Show yesterday where he wooed the crowd with his charming smile. Montgomery auctioned off some Olympic pins with all proceeds going to KidSport, an organization that focuses on removing financial barriers "So All Kids Can Play."

Montgomery

He was at B.C. Place, surrounded by an autograph-seeking crowd, with his coach Kelly Forbes after Forbes won $10,000 as an elite coach from the Chevrolet Making Dreams Possible grant.

Montgomery, who hails from Russell, Man., said he is "honoured and privileged" to have people come up and congratulate him, adding that it "takes time to realize the magnitude" of his Olympic success.

Recognition for his good deeds aside, Montgomery is also seeing his name used as a verb with increasing frequency, as in "I'm going to Jon Montgomery this beer" — a reference to the pint he chugged while walking around Whistler Villager after his gold medal run.

"If my name is synonymous with that, I'll accept it for sure," he said laughing before quickly going back to charity talk.

He's calling the time after the Olympics his "active resting period." He's using it to get involved with charities and to make event appearances before he lets it all slide in preparation to defend his title in Sochi 2014.

In June, Montgomery is heading to Africa as part of another charity trip, this time with Right To Play, to share his knowledge of sports and to help children "escape the reality that surrounds them." LAURA FORTEY/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Vancouver Newspapers 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2X6. Publisher: Maryse Lalonde

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Local

Cirque returns with Kooza

Cirque du soleil is returning to Vancouver on July 22 for its new production, Kooza, left. The show tells the story of The Innocent, a melancholy loner in search of his place in the world. Tickets go on sale on April 10. METRO VANCOUVER

Scan this code or text LOC to 82442 for local news.
See the Local page to learn how to scan.

Whale skeleton set for UBC

NATURE The gigantic skeleton of a blue whale that washed up on Prince Edward Island more than two decades ago should create quite the splash this month when it is installed at its final resting place at the University of B.C. The 25-metre-long skeleton is to be the centrepiece of UBC's new Beaty Biodiversity Museum. JEFF HODSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Settlement for mother of Dziekanski under wraps

APOLOGY An apology from the RCMP, a financial settlement and a geography scholarship in her dead son's name will allow Robert Dziekanski's mother to finally sleep at night, she says. But the exact amount of the settlement will remain a mystery, an agreement both sides say is Zofia Cisowski's wish.

Zofia Cisowski

Dziekanski, a 40-year-old Polish immigrant, died on the floor of Vancouver International Airport after several jolts from an RCMP Taser just hours after he arrived in Canada to join his mother.

More than two years later, the force's top commander in British Columbia, Deputy Commissioner Gary Bass, apologized directly to Cisowski at a news conference. JEFF HODSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Scholarship

- The $20,000 geography scholarship honours Dziekanski's love of the subject.

Council looks at cooping hens

JEFF HODSON
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Vancouver city council is looking at dropping some scratch on a house for homeless hens.

A proposed plan that would allow Vancouver homeowners to keep up to four backyard hens for egg production comes before city council on Thursday.

If approved, the plan would include the construction of a $20,000 roost at the Vancouver Animal Control Shelter to house hens that have been abandoned or have been seized by by-law officers.

The proposed facility would have separate coops and runs and would hold up to six hens.

The separation prevents the transmission of disease and the pecking and other aggressive behaviours of unacquainted hens.

Under the guidelines, each homeowner would be allowed to construct a coop and covered run for up to four hens. The new rules also extend to multi-family dwellings, which could have up to four hens per lot (not four hens per unit). Potentially, even apartment dwellers could raise chickens in the yard, provided they did not keep them on their balcony and had permission from the property owner.

Roosters are prohibited and the hens cannot be slaughtered. The eggs and manure cannot be sold.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Immigration Guidy Mamann on why Ottawa's cost-cutting refugee reforms are unrealistic at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries

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Extra: 11, 22, 35, 62
These results are not official.

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News in brief

HUNTING Grizzly bears are being killed at up to double the number allowed by the B.C. government, largely because of trophy hunting, according to research released by the David Suzuki Foundation. The grizzly hunting season started on April 1.

ROBBERY Three masked gunmen robbed a jewelry store at Park Royal, making off with an undetermined amount of valuables.

POT BUST Abbotsford police arrested two men after seizing 1,750 marijuana plants from a grow-op protected by motion sensors and alarms.

PROBE Delta police are investigating the murder of a 62-year-old woman found dead in her apartment on Evergreen Lane. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Richmond Olympic Oval takes in final skate

RECREATION Today is the last chance to skate on the same Richmond Olympic Oval ice that Canadian speed skaters won gold on.

The ice was opened for public skating on Saturday and it shuts down at 5 p.m. today. Yesterday alone, roughly 4,000 people came out to take in the experience, according to the Oval's senior manager Gerry De Cicco.

"I think it goes back to the Olympic spirit, living on through the community," said De Cicco. "A lot of people come here to skate but a lot of people come here just to see what the Oval is about and what it looks like. And they've been incredibly excited."

Over the next few months, the Oval will transform into a multi-sports facility complete with ice rinks, hardwood courts and a track-and-field area, all part of its post-Olympics legacy plan. "This is a facility that we encourage people to come in and participate in as many activities as possible," said De Cicco. "We'll have a variety of activities and that's the magic of it. It's all about what you want to do in the building."

Admission today is $2 and the ice opens at 1 p.m..

WESTON STEELE/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

WESTON STEELE/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

People take part in the second-last public skate at the Richmond Olympic Oval yesterday. After today's final skate, the ice will be removed.

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Vancouver Olympic experience recreated in San Francisco
A B.C. tourism campaign in San Francisco includes the installation of a zip line similar to the one set up over Robson Square during the Olympics. The B.C. Experience showcase is on from April 8 to 18 and will include two gold medal-winning Olympians, aboriginal performers and an interactive video and image display of the province. METRO VANCOUVER

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A police officer waits for Hydro crews to arrive after high winds toppled a tree and sent it crashing into a car and house in Delta.

Windstorms wreak havoc

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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People in the Lower Mainland are cleaning up after a powerful windstorm toppled trees, knocked down power lines and caused commuter chaos for transit riders, drivers and ferry passengers.

The storm brought winds gusting up to 90 km/h at Vancouver International Airport and up to 102 km/h in Tsawwassen, said Environment Canada meteorologist John McIntyre.

"In Victoria it was worse," McIntyre said.

"There were some lighthouses that (recorded gusts of) 106 km/h ... I don't think we've had a storm this strong since 2006."

Friday's storm cut power to about 115,000 B.C. Hydro customers, most of them on Vancouver Island, said Hydro spokesman Dag Sharma.

Many were left without electricity until Saturday.

Meanwhile, B.C. Ferries cancelled sailings between Horseshoe Bay and Vancouver Island, leaving many long weekend travellers stranded.

Drivers hoping to use the Lions Gate Bridge weren't any luckier after police closed Stanley Park and the causeway because of falling trees and car crashes.

Material from unfinished Vancouver highrises was also seen blowing off work sites and the roof of one Delta home was crushed by a falling tree.

Memories of '06

- In 2006, a massive windstorm ripped through Vancouver, destroying around 1,000 trees in Stanley Park, most notably by Prospect Point.

Cops hunting firebug

LANGLEY RCMP are on the hunt for a suspected arsonist — or several — after 10 suspicious fires broke out over the course of one hour early yesterday morning.

"Shortly after midnight police were called to investigate what turned out, in a short period of time, to be 10 separate fires in a four-block radius," said Sgt. Don Davidson.

"Nine of the fires were set in dumpsters and one at a townhouse complex, causing serious damage to two of the structures."

One of the fires was started in the underground of an apartment building. No injuries were reported but Davidson said police and fire crews were extremely busy.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

BURNABY A 19-year-old woman who walked her friend to a bus stop for safety was attacked as she walked back alone. RCMP say a man dragged her to a secluded area near Walker Avenue and Kingsway in Burnaby where the attack occurred.

HIT AND RUN A 32-year-old woman is recovering from broken bones after being run over in a hit-and-run at a crosswalk at the corner of Mahon Avenue and West 3rd Street in North Vancouver. The victim went over the hood and the car lost a mirror and most of its front grille before speeding off.

HOPE Police are investigating the discovery of a body that was found washed up along the bank of the Fraser River near Hope. The corpse was found on Saturday afternoon near the Hope Bridge.

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Dominican police seek three suspects in stabbing of Canadian

Police in the Dominican Republic are searching for three men who they believe fatally stabbed 54-year-old Louise Gaudreault inside her home. The Quebec-native had been living in the Caribbean country for the past 25 years, where she owned a ranch. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Rick Hansen denies GG job offer

Rick Hansen has not been offered the post of Canada's next governor general, says a spokesperson for the wheelchair athlete. Hansen's spokesperson was responding to media reports that said Prime Minister Stephen Harper was actively seeking a replacement for the viceroy post. The Prime Minister's Office declined to comment on the report.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Predator pardoned

PM's office shocked, wants explanation

Graham James, the junior hockey coach convicted of sexually abusing his players in a case that rocked the hockey world from house leagues to the NHL, has been pardoned by the National Parole Board.

Though the pardon was granted three years ago, it comes to light only now as a result of a previously unknown accuser contacting Winnipeg police.

A shocked Prime Minister's Office, notified of the pardon by The Canadian Press, called it a "deeply troubling and gravely disturbing" development that demands an explanation from the parole board.

James, now 58, pleaded guilty to sexual assault after two of his former teenaged players, including ex-NHLer Sheldon Kennedy, came forward with their stories of abuse at his hands from 1984 to 1995. James was sentenced to 3½ years in prison in 1997. His current whereabouts are unknown.

Graham James

Kennedy said news of the pardon awakened an old anger. "I'm not forgiving of what is going on here," he said last night.

The latest accuser, who says his encounter with James preceded Kennedy's by four years, is still deciding whether to follow former NHL star Theoren Fleury in lodging a formal complaint with police.

Fleury went to Winnipeg police in January after publishing a shocking tell-all memoir last autumn that detailed years of alleged abuse by James.

"I'm shocked and mystified. Imagine somebody who commits that kind of crime being pardoned," Fleury said in a statement issued yesterday.

The latest accuser spoke on condition he not be identified. He was never coached by James, but said he was targeted in 1979-80 as a player with prospects.

James was pardoned on Jan. 8, 2007. A pardon does not erase a person's criminal record.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swans **A very fowl Easter parade**

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A large crowd watches as 28 swans and other fowl parade from their winter quarters to the Avon River in Stratford, Ont., yesterday. The unique swan parade marks the return of spring.

Online libel debate goes to top court

HEARING Can posting a link to someone else's website constitute defamation?

The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear the case of a former Green Party campaign manager who says it does.

The top court on Thursday granted Wayne Crookes leave to appeal a British Columbia ruling which went against him in 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sledge hockey player dies
Matthew Cook, a sledge hockey player who inspired Canada's team at the Paralympic Games in Vancouver, has died of cancer.
His family posted a message on Facebook yesterday saying their beloved son and brother had passed away at home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto **Slacking off**

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A man practises slacklining during unseasonably warm weather in a busy Trinity Bellwoods Park in Toronto yesterday. Slacklining is a little-known balance sport using nylon webbing stretched tight between two anchor points.

News in brief

ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon visits the Far North today to get a first hand look at how scientists will help bolster Canada's future Arctic sovereignty claims. Cannon's two-day trip will take him to Resolute Bay and the Borden Island Ice Camp.

OIL SPILLS As interest grows in energy development off northern coastlines, Canadian scientists are planning their first field tests of a new technique they hope will give them a powerful tool against future accidents. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Will we follow U.S. on cap-and-trade retreat?

Signals from the White House that it's moving away from so-called cap-and-trade initiatives — a cornerstone of the Democrats' stalled climate legislation — amounts to a respite for Canada in its own efforts to combat greenhouse gases, experts say.

"It means Canada has been given a very long breathing space," Michal Moore, a professor of energy economics at the University of Calgary, said Thursday.

"Until we get to the point that we are willing to say that carbon is an issue that we have to solve, not that we ought to solve, Canada is just going to tread water again and wait to see how the U.S. tackles the problem," Moore said.

"What the prime minister and (Environment Minister) Jim Prentice basically got was a hall pass. They can now say we don't have to work on this right now."

Cap-and-trade aims to regulate and ultimately reduce carbon emissions by creating a commodity out of the right to emit carbon, and allowing that commodity to be traded on the free market. Cap-and-trade legislation was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last June, but it's been stalled in the Senate ever since as the healthcare reform debate took centre stage in Congress.

Obama's proposal earlier this week to open up waters along the Atlantic coastline, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and the north coast of Alaska to oil and natural gas drilling suggests the administration is moving in a different direction on climate change and energy supply.

The offshore drilling announcement also bodes well for Canadian energy producers, another Alberta environmental expert says.

"In terms of offshore drilling, the main driver here is energy security — Obama's very much about drilling to wean the U.S. off of foreign oil," said Andrew Leach, an assistant professor of environmental economics at the University of Alberta's school of business in Edmonton.

"Canada is not a big threat to U.S. energy security; in fact, we're a complement to it, and this could mean the administration is moving in a direction that could benefit our energy producers."

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar suggested cap-and-trade appears to have fallen out of favour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Republicans

- Republicans are largely in favour of ending the ban on new offshore drilling — the phrase "drill, baby, drill" became a Sarah Palin catchphrase during the 2008 presidential election campaign — while Democrats are almost uniformly opposed.

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Topless women draw crowd in equality march

About two-dozen women drew a crowd of onlookers when they shed their shirts and marched through Portland, Maine, to promote what they call equal-opportunity public toplessness. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Hate group leader: Killing 'act of war'

A top member of a South African white supremacist group said yesterday that the slaying of their leader was "a declaration of war" by blacks against whites, as President Jacob Zuma appealed for calm amid growing racial tensions in the once white-led country. Andre Visagie, left, of the AWB said the group would avenge the Saturday death of leader Eugene Terreblanche, but did not give details. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lawyers look into Pope's immunity

British attorneys examining pontiff's head-of-state status in relation to Vatican City

Protests are growing against Pope Benedict's XVI planned trip to Britain, where some lawyers question whether the Vatican's implicit statehood status should shield the Pope from prosecution over sex crimes by pedophile priests.

More than 10,000 people have signed a petition on Downing Street's website against the Pope's four-day visit to England and Scotland in September, which will cost British taxpayers an estimated 15-million pounds.

The campaign has gained momentum as more Catholic sex abuse scandals have swept across Europe.

Although Benedict has not been accused of any crime, senior British lawyers are now examining whether the Pope should have immunity as a head of state and whether he could be prosecuted under the principle of universal jurisdiction for an alleged systematic coverup of sexual abuses by priests.

Universal jurisdiction — a concept in international law — allows judges to issue warrants for nearly any visitor accused of grievous crimes, no matter where they live. British judges have been more open to the concept than those in other countries.

Lawyers are divided over the immunity issue. Some argue that the Vatican isn't a true state, while others note the Vatican has national relations with about 170 countries, including Britain. The Vatican is also the only non-member to have permanent observer status at the United Nations. Then again, no other top religious leaders enjoy the same UN privileges or immunity, so why should the Pope?

David Crane, former chief prosecutor at the Sierra Leone war crimes tribunal, said it would be difficult to implicate the Pope in anything criminal.

"It's a fascinating kind of academic, theoretical discussion," said Crane, who prosecuted Sierra Leone's Charles Taylor when he was still a sitting head of state. "At this point, there's no liability at all."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bishop attacked

- Police say a man attacked the Roman Catholic Bishop of Muenster, Germany, with a broom handle during an Easter service in the city's cathedral. Police said 60-year-old bishop Felix Genn defended himself with an incense bowl and was unharmed.

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope Benedict XVI addresses the faithful at Easter Mass yesterday in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

THE MUNRO FAMILY
37A-B-C

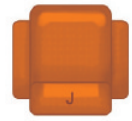
Court upholds kissing sentence

U.A.E. A Dubai appeals court yesterday upheld a one-month prison sentence for a British couple convicted of kissing in a restaurant.

The pair landed in court after an Emirati woman complained about the public kiss, which the couple insisted was just a peck on the cheek. They were arrested in November and convicted of inappropriate behaviour and illegal drinking.

Cosmopolitan Dubai has the most relaxed social codes in the conservative Gulf, but authorities enforce strict decency laws and regularly crack down on people accused of pushing the limits, which can include everything from wearing a mini skirt to losing one's temper in traffic.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



LINDSAY PERRY
21J

News in brief

AUSTRALIA A coal-carrying ship that strayed outside a shipping lane and ran aground in protected waters was leaking oil on Australia's Great Barrier Reef and was in danger of breaking apart, officials said yesterday. The Chinese Shen Neng 1 ran aground late Saturday on Douglas Shoals, a favourite haunt for recreational fishing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Illegals excluded from health bill

U.S. President Barack Obama signed, with much fanfare, an historic bill to extend health care access to 32 million currently uninsured people, but undocumented immigrants — seven-million uninsured people — were explicitly excluded from the legislation, according to estimates by the Congressional Budget Office.

The question of whether to extend coverage to illegal immigrants was so contentious that, under the approved legislation, they will not even be able to buy insurance in the newly created purchasing pools called exchanges if they pay entirely out of their own pocket. Illegal immigrants won't be the only uninsured: An estimated 16 million Americans will remain without insurance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strongest quake to hit Southern California in decades kills at least one

BAJA CALIFORNIA One of the strongest earthquakes to hit Southern California in decades shook tens of millions of people in two countries and three states yesterday, swaying buildings from Los Angeles to Phoenix to Las Vegas. At least one person in Mexico was killed and others were feared trapped in their homes.

The 7.2-magnitude quake struck at 3:40 p.m. PDT, about 20 miles southeast of the border city of Mexicali, Mexico, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Three aftershocks of magnitudes 5.1, 4.5 and 4.3 followed within the hour.

"It sounds like it's felt by at least 20-million people at this point," USGS seismologist Lucy Jones said. "Most of Southern California felt this earthquake."

The earthquake was felt the hardest in Mexicali, a bustling commerce centre along the border.

Baja California State Civil Protection Director Alfredo Escobedo said a man was killed when his home collapsed just outside of Mexicali, and that there were reports of more people trapped in homes in the area.

Rescue teams with dogs and digging equipment were rushing to the city from nearby Tijuana.

The parking garage at Mexicali's city hall also collapsed, Escobedo said, but no one there was hurt.

There was substantial damage on the other side of the border in Calexico, Calif.

Fire Chief Peter Mercado told KABC-TV of Los Angeles that there was structural damage and broken windows in an older section of town, as well as leaking gas lines and damage to the water system, but that no one was hurt.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ScanLife

UN head calls for action on a 'shocking' environmental disaster

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KATE ZULU
42D

Thailand **Protests continue**

DAVID LONGSTREATH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-government demonstrators gather to listen to speeches outside in Bangkok yesterday. Thousands of anti-government protesters refused to leave the heart of Thailand's capital.

Controversial meat pits Greenpeace activists against cargo ship
Greenpeace activists say they prevented a shipment of meat from endangered fin whales from passing through Rotterdam harbour by chaining themselves to the anchor line of a Japanese cargo ship. Greenpeace says the 15 activists ended their protest after the shipping company unloaded seven containers of the contested meat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dozens of survivors rescued from mine

'A miracle has finally happened,' says rescuer

Dozens of Chinese miners were pulled out alive yesterday after being trapped for more than a week in a flooded coal mine, sparking cheers among the hundreds of rescue workers who had raced to save them and almost given up hope.

A live state television broadcast counted off the number of survivors — 55 as of press time — as miners wrapped in blankets were hurried to ambulances that sped to nearby hospitals.

Rescuers in tears hugged each other at the scene, which was broadcast on national television. The sudden surge in rescues was a rare piece of good news for China's mining industry, the deadliest in the world.

"A miracle has finally happened," a rescue headquarters spokesman, Liu Dezheng, told reporters this morning, after the first nine miners were taken out shortly after midnight. "We believe that more miracles will happen."

The stream of survivors started about two hours later.

The Communist Party chief of the northern province of Shanxi said he understood 95 people were still alive, though not all had been pulled out. "This is very encouraging," he said.

As the wave of rescues began, state television said rescuers were preparing to pull as many as 70 to 80 miners out of the mine, though conditions underground remain complicated by high murky water. A total of 153 workers had been trapped.

The first rescue early this morning had seemed beyond hope for days before crews heard tapping from deep underground Friday.

Some of the soaked miners had hung from shaft walls by their belts for days. Hundreds of rescuers were underground with hopes that glimpses of swinging lights and new tapping sounds meant even more survivors could be found.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency said the first nine rescued miners were conscious and could say their name and hometown, but their bodies had suffered from being soaked for so long.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dangerous mines

China's coal mines are the world's deadliest, with accidents killing 2,631 coal miners in China last year, according to the State Administration of Coal Mine Safety. The deadliest year on record was 2002, when 6,995 miners perished in accidents.

Senegal **Celebrating their independence**

REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Independence Day parade — featuring marching soldiers — was held in Dakar yesterday to mark the 50th anniversary of Senegal's independence from colonial France.

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Comment

Brutal timing for bus fare hikes

InTransit

Derek Moscato

dmoscato@yahoo.com

Surprise, surprise: The Bus Riders Union is angry again. Every time TransLink raises bus fares, it seems, the local collective of transit activists cries foul. At various rallies and public forums, it has voiced its disgust with the higher cost to ride SkyTrain, Seabus or bus.

Over the years, it has seemed almost impervious to economy realities. For this reason, I have traditionally tuned this organization out, but I'm inclined to sympathize with its complaining this time. After all, the transit dependent are indeed worse off financially since April 1.

We've known for a while that TransLink was intent on raising fares. But it seems out of line in this economic climate — when many commuters are already financial squeezed.

TransLink's bean counters — who have to fund the agency's massive $843-million budget — may disagree, but this is exactly the wrong time to be jacking up fares by roughly 10 per cent.

And unlike the Bus Riders Union's constituents, not all of TransLink's customers are transit dependent. Many take SkyTrain or bus for lifestyle reasons — whether it's about reducing one's carbon footprint or foregoing car ownership. But by raising fares, TransLink runs the risk of sending some of its customers back to vehicles of their own.

While bus fares continue to rise, the cost of a new car has basically flat-lined. Many a salesperson will tell you that it's never been a better time to buy a new vehicle and, quite frankly, they might be right. With the implementation of the harmonized sales tax only a few months away, it's never been a better time to buy a used car either.

TransLink's unaccountable board needs to reconsider its pricing strategy.

•••

I'm surprised TransLink hasn't paid attention to some quite different whining going on at Apple's iTunes store. Apparently, tech-savvy transit customers are not impressed with the transit agency's iPhone application.

Users have complained about the app crashing, its lack of offline schedules and maps, and its slow loading time.

"Absolutely useless," is how customer NewWestChuck describes it. "To use this app you must know where you are, where you are going, and how to get there."

Others have been less constructive with criticism.

Another reviewer, MaxChat, says it's time to put this app out of its misery to spare TransLink further embarrassment. "Completely outdated," MaxChat said. "App needs to be taken down."

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics; dmoscato@yahoo.com.

Views

Going cross-eyed gazing into a crystal ball

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Time, once again, for Wise Things Said By People Smarter Than Me. Fortunately, as always, there's no shortage of candidates.

Today's topic: "How to prepare for the future when you have no clue what it is."

Next week's column will be my last for Metro. As I contemplate what comes next for me, I find it can be summed up by these few words, "I have no idea." This shouldn't be a surprise. We never have any idea of what's coming next. We think we know, of course, which is why we have things like RRSPs and summer clothing that goes on sale in March.

But, really, trying to plan wisely for the future is a little like trying to pack sensibly for a trip without the least idea of where you're headed. So here's a few words of wisdom to help us prepare for any event.

"Sometimes not getting what you want is an extraordinary stroke of good luck."

– The Dalai Lama

The first thing that strikes us about this is, obviously, esteemed Tibetan Buddhist leaders don't know about shoe sales or income tax refunds. Otherwise, it's perfectly true that we have no idea what's good for us.

Given my way, I would have married Bart Smith back in Grade 3, which might not have turned out well at all. The trick is remembering that whatever happens there's only one guarantee: It will have good parts and bad parts. We may as well look for the good.

"You can't be brave if you only have wonderful things happen to you."

– Mary Tyler Moore

So true. If you never have a difficult challenging life experience, you can't be brave. You can, mind you, be wildly, insanely happy and content. Hmmm...

"It is those who have a deep and real inner life who are best able to deal with the irritating details of outer life."

– Evelyn Underhill

These people, plus chartered accountants. But the point is, peace happens from the inside out. Which brings us to these wise words from the poet Osho:

Sitting silently,
doing nothing,
Spring comes,
and the grass grows,
by itself.

Sometimes the only way to prepare for the future is to simply sit back and let it come.

Next week: For my final column, I'll be answering your questions, so send them to annemhines@gmail.com. Any topic you like. So long as it's writing, job loss or squirrel hating. I'm sticking with what I know.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Tell us your views by email to vancouverletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @vancouvermetro

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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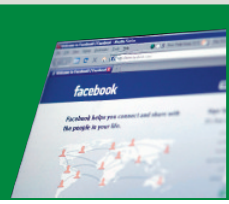
Company develops new glasses-free 3-D technology — but there's a catch
Sharp's latest 3-D displays deliver bright, clear imagery without the cumbersome glasses usually required for such technology.
Now the bad news: They only work on a three-inch screen held one foot from the viewer's face. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business



Facebook buys Divvyshot

Facebook has acquired a startup called Divvyshot to create more ways for its 400 million users to share their photos online. Divvyshot, a year-old startup based in San Francisco, runs a service that makes it easier for more people to contribute to the same online photo album. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Faithful queue for iPad

Now that the iPad is in the hands of early adopters, the hard work for Apple Inc. begins.

Eager customers intent on being among the first owners of this new class of gadgetry stood in long lines across the U.S. Saturday. They seemed willing to buy first — and discover uses for the iPad later.

In some ways, it was reminiscent of the lines and hoopla surrounding the 2007 launch of the first iPhone.

The difference: People knew then that the iPhone would replace their existing cellphone.

With the iPad, which fits somewhere between phone and computer, Apple must convince people who already have smart phones, laptops, e-book readers and home broadband connections that they need another device that serves the same purposes.

Many of the earliest iPad buyers say they will have a better idea of what they'll use it for only after they've had it for a while.

Skeptics point to ways the iPad comes up short. They argue the on-screen keyboard is hard to use and complain that it lacks a camera and ports for media storage cards and USB devices such as printers.

They also bemoan the fact that the iPad can't play Flash video, which means many websites with video clips will look broken.

And the iPad can't run more than one program at a time. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

iPad versus iPhone

- The iPad is essentially a much larger version of Apple's iPhone, without the calling capabilities. Just a half-inch thick, the device has a 24.6-centimetre touch screen — nearly three times the iPhone's. Also, like the iPhone, it has no physical keyboard.

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andres Schobel was one of the first in San Francisco to nab an Apple iPad when they went on sale across the U.S. Saturday.

Southwest, WestJet deal stuck on the runway?

AIRLINES Southwest Airlines Co. may be looking soon for a new partner to provide service to Canada.

Southwest has planned for more than a year to sell travel to Canada on board flights operated by Calgary-based WestJet Airlines Ltd. But reports indicate WestJet is talking about a similar deal with Delta Air Lines Inc., which would transfer a few takeoff and landing slots at New York's LaGuardia Airport to WestJet.

Southwest's executive vice-president of planning Bob Jordan said Thursday that a WestJet-Delta deal could conflict with the Southwest-WestJet partnership. Jordan also said WestJet has made unacceptable demands of Southwest, which he didn't describe.

If the two can't work out their differences, Jordan said, Southwest will look for other ways to offer customers flights to Canada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Diamonds Prices rebounding

MARTIAL TREZZINI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Sotheby's employee displays various sapphire and diamonds during a recent preview in Switzerland. Improving demand and shrinking supply have pushed diamond prices to within a few percentage points of their pre-recession peak.

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Business in brief

LAWSUIT EBay Inc. might be violating false-advertising laws if it doesn't warn consumers that some items billed as upscale jeweler Tiffany Co.'s products by sellers on its website are not authentic, a federal appeals court said last Thursday. But, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that said eBay did not engage in trademark infringement or trademark dilution in its use of Tiffany & Co.'s trademarks.

CHINA General Motors Co. and its joint ventures say their sales jumped 68 per cent in March over a year earlier to a new monthly record. The 230,048 GM vehicles sold in China set a record for the 15th straight month, the company said Friday. First-quarter sales surged 71 per cent to 623,546 units. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RULING Canadian software developer i4i announced Thursday it's won another victory in U.S. courts in its patent infringement case against Microsoft Corp. In a release, i4i said the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has denied a petition by Microsoft for a "rehearing and rehearing en blanc." The ruling means the court has refused to hear the case again, including Microsoft's petition to have it heard by the court's entire 12-judge panel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ScanLife

Obama walks fine line between claiming credit for economic recovery and reining in optimism.

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Despite recovery, economy still worries most Canadians: Poll

SURVEY Canada's economy is on a tear, China's is exploding and even the U.S. manufacturing sector is rebounding and jobs are poised for their first significant gain in two years. So why are Canadians so edgy?

According to a Royal Bank survey, two-thirds of Canadians have been losing sleep over the state of their finances, and 22 per cent were worried about losing their jobs. More surprisingly, more Canadians — 20 per cent as opposed to 13 per cent the previous month — thought the economy will get worse in the next year despite all the evidence it is bouncing back strongly from recession.

The sneaking suspicion that the rebound is mostly smoke and mirrors has some validity, say economists, who like many ordinary Canadians also believe the bubble is about to burst.

"The nagging feeling that it's too good to be true, there's something to that," said CIBC economist Benjamin Tal.

Tal's consumer capability index suggests that the Canadian economy is running on steroids, namely government stimulus and record-low interest rates, and will start sputtering when the boost is removed.

A pile of worries is mounting for Canadian consumers: Income growth remains flat and the cost of mortgages, consumer loans and lines of credit are increasing as well. Food and energy costs continue to rise and now ordinary Canadians face a bigger tax bite as governments try to wipe out deficits. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa unveils stricter emissions rules for new cars

AUTO New cars and light trucks will be subject to stringent new rules to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and improve fuel efficiency — while adding to the sticker price — the federal government has announced.

The new regulations are the culmination of a year-long process to create a continental emissions standard and likely sets a precedent for future Canada-U.S. collaboration on global climate change.

The new tailpipe standards, which start taking effect in 2011, will require new vehicles to improve fuel efficiency by 40 per cent and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent in six years.

In Canada, any individual automaker's fleet must achieve 6.6 litres of gas consumption per 100 kilometres. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Don't rinse your dishes

If you are looking for ways to save on water costs and help the environment you should skip rinsing your plates before you put them into the dishwasher. On average you will save about 15 gallons of water per load. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

Past a tipping point?

The book Eaarth leads readers to the devastating conclusion that we no longer inhabit the world in which we've flourished: We've passed the tipping point for prevention, and that only immediate, massive change will stop the damage. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Greenwashing away intent

Companies continue to launch disingenuous 'green' campaigns

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Paul de Clerk, Coordinator of the Corporate Campaign at Friends of the Earth International, describes greenwashing as "the practice of companies disingenuously spinning their products and policies as environmentally friendly."

Companies launch cleverly-angled advertising campaigns convincing consumers with claims that are at best vague, unsubstantiated, and irrelevant (for example, "CFC free" even though these are illegal). At worst the claims are completely untrue or plain bizarre (organic cigarettes- seriously?)

AN UGLY TRUTH

De Clerk highlighted what he believes to be the two most outrageous greenwashing claims to have been splashed across advertising billboards worldwide saying, "A few years ago, Shell had an ad showing an oil refinery chimney with flowers coming out instead of smoke … hardly possible."

"The second example, against which Friends of the Earth filed a successful complaint, involved the Malaysian Palm Oil Council. The ad, which ran in The Economist magazine, falsely claimed palm oil resources were sustainable when in reality the palm oil trade had caused deforestation and conflict."

However, about a year after the complaint the Malaysian Palm Oil Council launched another advertising campaign, this time claiming that palm oil was the "green solution."

De Clerk says a big problem faced by environmentalists is that even when bodies like the ASA (Advertising Standards Authority) in the UK or Friends of the Earth file complaints, companies are not fined, and are free to repeat similar campaigns.

"Filing a procedure for a greenwashing claim can take months, by which time the advert has had the desired impact on consumers." he said.

"The companies suffer no direct impact as by the time the advert is banned, the campaign is most likely to be over."

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE...

Green issues matter to big business, and even coal companies are claiming to be environmentally friendly.

Energy Company E.ON, based in Germany, has plans to build coal-powered plants, yet in its advertising campaigns, the company focuses on its renewable power sourcing schemes, such as windmills. Although these represent a small percentage of the product portfolio (coal, gas and nuclear energy make up the rest) they are the ones the public are usually exposed to.

The facts speak for themselves — energy website electricityinfo.org states that between April 2008 and March 2009 E.ON's portfolio was: coal 43.4 per cent, natural gas 45.2 per cent, nuclear 6.2 per cent and renewables a tiny 0.3 per cent.

WHO CARES?

Both consumers and companies are all too aware of the commercial imperative to be seen to be "green." And as environmental issues have become more important and mainstream the PR greenwashing has become more sophisticated and more prevalent.

The net losers are the companies whose green credentials are based on fact — and the spin-weary consumer.

Eventually consumers will get frustrated, lose all faith in green claims and start ignoring all green campaigns.

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Ads that promote green approaches, without backing up their claims with green actions, are considered greenwashing.

Expert pointing to success of enviro-transparency

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Metro sat down with Green Detective Kevin Tuerff, president of Enviro-Media Social Marketing, to find out more about the practice of greenwashing.

Q What are the ultimate "sins" of greenwashing?

A In 2007 we saw a flood of green ads on TV, print and online. A lot of the claims were complete exaggerations, or greenwashing. Although the advertising industry has standards for ethics, they appear to be forgotten by many marketers as they attempt to sell products or services. Some green claims may appear harmless, others are causing harm to consumers, usually economic and sometimes health-related.

Q Media focus on the environment has led to some companies making inaccurate claims — do they get away with it?

A Standards for green marketing vary by country. In the UK and other EU countries, advertising standards boards have levied penalties against some companies for greenwashing.

In the United States however, the Federal Trade Commission is years behind in releasing new standards for environmental marketing. We knew in 2007 that it would be years before any new rules were developed, so we developed a public service scheme with advertising professors from the University of Oregon to help consumers become aware of greenwashing, training people how to analyze green ads. The result is the website greenwashingindex.com.

The forum is driven by consumers who find, post and rate environmental ads based on the five criteria we developed.

Q What has been the most outrageous cases of greenwashing you have seen?

A The industries that have the most adverts accused of blatant greenwashing have come from the energy and automobile sectors. These sectors have the most at stake when it comes to potential regulation of greenhouse gas emissions related to global climate change.

Kevin Tuerff

The most ridiculous ones span from a TV ad that uses sexy models down in the coal mine to promote the myth that coal is a clean fuel, to a car company that changed its logo to green and promoted a 50 per cent increase in fuel efficiency in its new model truck.

The problem that vehicle was the baseline for the statistic was only 10 miles per gallon (US). You had to read the fine print to realize that.

Q Will consumers eventually grow weary of these of these claims?

A A 2009 study of U.S. households by Green Seal and EnviroMedia, revealed one-third of consumers were unaware of how to evaluate green marketing claims.

Q Why do companies need to greenwash?

A The explosion of consumer interest in green products and services right about the time of the global economic crisis, led to companies being lazy and desperate to make money.

The smartest companies are ones that have transparency: they tell the good, the bad and the ugly about their company's impact on the planet.

They commit to specific goals, then achieve them, and then they tell their own story.

Don't put them to sleep
Turn off computers at night. You will save an average $15 a year on energy. METRO NEWS SERVICES

5 labels to look for

Metro compiles a list for savvy consumers

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Energy ratings are attached to most new items.

To help clear up the confusion caused by greenwashing Metro has compiled the top five things green savvy consumers should look for on labels.

1 Eco labels

State the environmental impacts of a product throughout its average lifecycle — from production to use and disposal.

Most companies must be independently certified and meet strict criteria for the main environmental impacts their product may cause across the entire life cycle.

2 Energy labels

Rating system for energy efficient products that cause minimum impact on the environment. Household appliances such as fridges, freezers, washing machines, tumble driers, dishwashers, ovens, light bulbs and air conditioners. Products are generally given a rating between A and G, with A being the most efficient.

3 Green labels and claims

These are designed to help consumers choose products that cause the least harm to the environment. Unfortunately, these labels and claim tend to be unclear, vague and without a proper explanation as to what the green credentials really are.

A company that claims their product is "kind to its natural surroundings or nature" must be able to support this claim by concrete facts, otherwise this is meaningless.

4 Organic labels

The meaning of the word "organic" is one that has been defined by law Organic farming, for example, carries strict guidelines on the artificial chemical fertilizers and pesticides used in the process. Organic standards don't just apply to food, but textiles, cosmetics and wood products as well.

5 The wider world labels

These schemes aim to provide sustainable livelihoods as well as protect the ecosystem and biodiversity of the country they originate from.

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The Comwave Comparison

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VoIP 911 has certain limitations versus traditional 911. The rates are based on a 3 year term. The rates of $41.31/month and $68.79/month are as advertised on http://www.homephonechallenge.ca on Oct. 5, 2009. The rate of $29.95 does not include applicable taxes. Unlimited Canada plan does not include calls to the Yukon, Nunavut or NWT. One Rate plan does not include calls to the Yukon, Nunavut, N.W.T., Hawaii or Alaska. Rate guarantee is based on comparison lowest advertised rate for like services. Home Phone Global plan is limited to 3000 minutes per month. Calls to Overseas Mobile Phones may be billed at a higher rate. 6 Months Free - You get 3 months free immediately upon activation of the service. Get an additional 3 months free if you transfer your existing Home Phone Line to Comwave within the first 3 months. Satisfaction Guaranteed within 90 days. If you are not 100% satisfied, you may cancel your Phone service no questions asked.

West Ham ends losing skid

Ilan scored a late equalizer as relegation-threatened West Ham ended its six-game losing run with a 2-2 draw at Everton yesterday, while Liverpool was held 1-1 by Birmingham to lose ground in the race for fourth place and the final Champions League spot. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Koe stays perfect

Three matches and three wins into world men's curling championship, Kevin Koe, left, and his Canadian rink are just now starting to find their comfort zone. The Edmonton skip extended his perfect start with pair of victories yesterday, retaining a share of first place with Scotland's Warwick Smith at 3-0. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver's Kyle Wellwood jumps in front of Minnesota's Niklas Backstrom, as the puck goes wide of the net during last night's action.

Salo scores OT winner

NHL RESULTS

Wild 3 Canucks 4 (OT)

VS

Sami Salo scored a power-play goal at 2:15 of overtime and the Vancouver Canucks clinched the Northwest Division title with a 4-3 victory over the Minnesota Wild last night.

Salo scored the winner after the Canucks squandered a 3-1 lead in the final minute of regulation time.

Ryan Kesler, Kyle Wellwood and Alex Edler also scored as the Canucks (48-27-4) locked up home ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs and reached the 100-point mark.

Andrew Brunette, Cody Almond — with his first NHL career goal — and Antti Miettinen replied for the Wild (37-35-7), whose playoff hopes ended a long time ago. Minnesota failed to win in three games at General Motors Place this season.

Edler's empty-netter gave Vancouver what appeared to be an insurmountable two-goal lead with less than a minute left. But Almond tallied with 42 seconds remaining in the third period and Miettinen scored with 18.8 left to force overtime.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sox best Yanks in MLB opener

MLB RESULTS

Yankees 7 Red Sox 9

VS

MLB Kevin Youkilis scored the go-ahead run on a passed ball after his third extra-base hit and the Boston Red Sox rallied to beat the New York Yankees 9-7 in the major league opener last night.

Boston erased a 5-1 deficit against CC Sabathia and defeated the defending World Series champions in the first night opener in the history of 98-year-old Fenway Park. Jorge Posada and Curtis Granderson hit back-to-back homers off Josh Beckett to give the Yankees a 2-0 lead in the second inning.

It was 7-5 in the bottom of the seventh when Marco Scutaro singled and Dustin Pedroia tied it with a homer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

NFL The Philadelphia Eagles have traded Donovan McNabb to the Washington Redskins for a pair of draft picks. The Eagles will receive a second-round pick (37th overall) in this month's NFL draft and either a third- or fourth-round pick next year.

TENNIS Andy Roddick won the Sony Ericsson Open by using his dominating serve and a smart baseline game to beat Tomas Berdych 7-5, 6-4. Roddick mixed up the pace on his groundstrokes to keep Berdych off balance yesterday while committing only 16 unforced errors.

NBA The Toronto Raptors signed free agent forward/centre Joey Dorsey for the remainder of the season. Dorsey, 26, was taken 33rd overall in the 2008 NBA draft by the Portland Trail Blazers.

HOCKEY Leading 2010 NHL draft prospects Brett Connolly, Erik Gudbranson and Calvin Pickard headline the world under-18 hockey championship roster unveiled by Canada yesterday. The championship is set for April 13 to 23 in Minsk and Bobruisk, Belarus.

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Woods makes low-key arrival at Augusta National

MASTERS Tiger Woods arrived without warning on a lazy Sunday afternoon at the Masters.

He offered a playful jab when he greeted two reporters he had not seen in five months, acting as though nothing had changed. He then strolled onto the new practice facility at Augusta National and stopped to chat with Paul Casey.

"It's where I'm used to seeing him," Casey said, choosing to keep their conversation private. "All of a sudden he appeared behind me. He was all business as usual — hit 10 balls and go play."

This Masters figures to be anything but that.

Woods has not been seen in public, except for a few chosen media appearances, since his middle-of-the-night car accident Nov. 27 that set off explosive revelations of a sordid life hardly anyone knew existed.

He is to speak this afternoon in a news conference of such interest that the club has limited seating to one reporter for each news outlet, with only a few exceptions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DARRON CUMMINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger Woods arrives at the driving range yesterday to practise in Augusta, Ga.

MLS rule change unlikely to improve quality of play

JustSoccer

Ben Rycroft

metronews.ca/justsoccer

Depending on who you talk to, it was either a relaxing of the rules that enforce parity or another laughing-stock example of why the league remains the subject of parody.

On Friday, Major League Soccer announced it would be changing the terms surrounding the use of its designated player slot — colloquially called the David Beckham Rule — which allows clubs to pay a single player any amount, with only a certain portion counting against the team's salary cap.

Under the new rules, each club can now have as many as three designated players, and only $335,000 (previously $450,000) will count against the salary cap. Also, teams signing DPs mid-season will only face a $167,000 cap hit.

During a teleconference announcing the change, Todd Durbin, executive vice-president of player relations and competition, explained the move as a way to loosen the reins on spending in MLS while still maintaining "a league that gives every team the opportunity to be successful."

"It's supposed to allow teams that want to go out and sign high-profile players the opportunity to be successful," Durbin said.

"But at the same time, we made sure it's calibrated in a way that teams that don't want to go out and sign designated players also so have the opportunity to be successful."

It's a move the league is banking on to increase the overall exposure for MLS, quality of play and competition among its clubs.

So what's wrong with that?

A lot, if you look closer.

While the league could have 16 designated players right now (one per team), only five teams actually have one. So for the league to herald this rule change as a major shift in policy is a little misleading.

And if we are to believe that this relaxing of the rules will spur clubs to charge out and sign the likes of Thierry Henry and Raul (long rumoured to be headed to New York) then it brings up another question — what will the teams look like when more than $1 million of their $2.55-million salary cap is tied up in three players?

"Thin" is a word that comes to mind. MLS already struggles to attract and retain good, emerging talent. Leaving the remaining 21 players to fight over a very small pie doesn't bode well for improving the overall level of play.

So, why not just increase the salary cap further?

To be blunt, there are a lot of poor teams in MLS. Most couldn't afford an increase.

But if the league was serious about increasing the quality of play and promoting real competition amongst its teams, it would have dropped the cap hit clubs now incur from a designated player altogether, allowing for greater wealth distribution to the rest of the roster, to help keep those mid-range and emerging players.

With this move, MLS isn't signalling it's really serious about competition or quality of play — just serious about having more marketable faces.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Sunday at metronews.ca; ben.rycroft@metronews.ca.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

VANCOUVER 4 Minnesota 3 (OT)
Chicago 4 Calgary 1
Philadelphia 4 Detroit 3
Colorado 5 San Jose 4 (OT)

TODAY'S GAMES

Boston at Washington, 4 p.m.
Columbus at St. Louis, 5 p.m.
Minnesota at Edmonton, 6:30 p.m.

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Golden State 113 Toronto 112
Boston 117 Cleveland 113
Indiana 133 Houston 102
New York 113 L.A. Clippers 107
Oklahoma City 116 Minnesota 108
Orlando 107 Memphis 92
San Antonio 100 L.A. Lakers 81
Washington 109 New Jersey 99

For more scores visit metronews.ca/sports

Dismissed FNUC finance VP fights firing
Allan Ducharme, the former vice-president of finance and administration of the First Nations University of Canada, has filed a statement of claim against the institution for wrongful dismissal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Quebec to end tuition freeze

In his budget address last week, Quebec's finance minister announced that the province will raise university fees as of fall 2012 to ensure adequate funding of Quebec's universities. The province's education minister will meet with education partners next fall to flesh out the details of the increase, and to discuss the performance and funding of the university network. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Morale: A post-recession hurdle

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Andrew Reid of Toronto's Big Fish Interactive says that an invitation is always better than a command when you're trying to remotivate your workforce after the long recession.

While the recent recession obviously took its toll on the financial sector, one overlooked impact is that on employee morale. Battered by downsizing and frozen or severed wages, many staff members have difficulty keeping spirits during and after economic uncertainty.

While commerce has recovered to the relief of executives, not all personnel share the same buoyancy. They still feel the sting, leaving leaders charged with the task of re-motivating/invigorating underlings back into a state of security and productivity. The question is, how?

"One of my mantras is: If you only remember one thing, it's to invite your people to participate in their own success," answers Andrew Reid, founder of Toronto-based HR consulting and employee/management coaching firm Big Fish Interactive.

"The key point is that an invitation is experienced very differently than a command," he continues. "If I'm invited, I'm being recognized for strengths and talents that I have. It's that simple. The conversation can then help the leadership team identify each level of staff's contribution to the bigger picture so that they can find their place in the success of the organization."

Essentially, Reid declares that when motivation is lacking, onus is on managers, team leaders or business owners to search for what's absent. Generally, that missing link in increased inspiration — and in return, productivity — is a sense of belonging and that an individual's opinion counts, regardless of title.

When administration offer their team an atmosphere of ownership and purpose, direct results are seen via employees setting goals; finding a hand in the future success of the business and applying themselves accordingly. Gone is the resentment of believing they are expendable, replaced by direct responsibility and personal pride in accomplishing missions.

> **"(Bosses) need to ask employees what they want to build or create as a participant in the company, identify what success looks like for them so they'll know when they get there."**
> Andrew Reid of Big Fish Interactive

"It's the simplest thing to do, but it's the most missed opportunity," Reid reveals, adding that finding this connection is as simple as going straight to the horse's mouth.

"(Bosses) need to ask employees what they want to build or create as a participant in the company, identify what success looks like for them so they'll know when they get there and then train the executives to blend the needs of the senior executive or corporation (they still need to turn a profit) with the goals of their employees."

Executives caveat though: As the axiom cautions, patience is a virtue. Workers need time to apply strategies in order to achieve goals.

Offering this support ensures that leaders are providing the most important tools necessary for their team to reach revised expectations.

Workology in brief

QUEEN'S AMS APOLOGIZES Last week, Queen's University's Alma Mater Society published a two-page apology and cancelled a food-bank fundraiser that was to feature two Sumo suits, which the AMS describes as "racist and dehumanizing instruments of oppression." The letter takes the student society's own executive to task for "marginalizing members of the Queen's community" and failing to "critically consider the racist meaning behind (the fundraiser)."

OTTAWA ASKED TO CLARIFY BUDGET ITEM ON UPEI FUNDING Prince Edward Island's innovation minister says the province and the University of Prince Edward Island have asked the federal government to clarify an item in its recent budget that refers to a $30-million investment in the university. It is not clear whether it is money already spent or new funding. The question of whether the funding is new is significant because UPEI has proposed a new centre of excellence. The university and PEI are asking Ottawa for a $30-million investment over five years. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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uCalgary submits plan to address grant accounting issues

University of Calgary officials say the institution is on track to put its research funding woes behind it after key federal funding agencies graded the institution with a second consecutive "unsatisfactory" mark regarding grant accounting. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Avoid these mistakes if selling your business

Most business owners have built their company from the ground up and often bank on the success of its sale to fund their retirement, their family's future, or other business opportunities.

Although owners generally know their business better than anyone else, far too many underestimate the complexity of the sale process.

Here are some ways to avoid common mistakes owners make when trying to sell their business:

When selling your business, negotiations should be lead by experienced professionals.

Succession plan

By preparing a succession plan or exit strategy in advance, usually you have the opportunity to be in control of the sale process and sell on your terms.

Taking a proactive approach will allow you to:

- Pay less tax on the proceeds
- Enhance the value of the business
- Position your business in the best possible light

Find the right buyer

Competition provides negotiating leverage and is key to achieving premium pricing and favourable terms on a transaction. The business should be offered to a limited number of pre-qualified buyers in a controlled process, which encourages competition while maintaining confidentiality and control over the flow of information.

Sale transactions often fail because of the inability of buyer and seller to come to an agreement on price. Most business owners invest much of themselves in their business. It helps to get independent and objective advice on how a purchaser will view the business and what is realistic to expect from a market transaction.

To achieve the best results, the seller must maintain control of the transaction process.

Stay confidential

Confidentiality is critical, as misinformation can have a disastrous effect on operations and result in termination of the transaction. It is essential to have an action plan that includes the appropriate timing and content of communications to employees, suppliers and customers.

Timing and information should not be released too soon in the process, as providing exclusive rights in the early stages can weaken your negotiating leverage and increase the risk of falling victim to potential bidding tactics.

Negotiations should also be lead by experienced and credible professionals, which would reduce the risk of emotional decision-making and could significantly increase your chance of receiving favourable terms.

A business owner seldom has the time or resources to effectively manage a transaction, which can affect the operation of the business and could decrease the value of the business and add strain to personal relationships.

Go pro

A professional Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) adviser can guide an owner through the transaction process, by planning an exit strategy, providing an objective valuation, helping identify a wider range of potential buyers and assisting in the negotiations throughout the transaction process.

As the surge of aging baby boomers increases, more business owners will be considering their succession strategy and exit plan. Being more prepared for the transition will help avoid the obvious pitfalls and increase your chances of a successful sale.

If you are considering selling your business, Aon's M&A Transaction Advisory Group can guide you through process. More information can be found online at aon.com/successionplan.

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Ottawa provides $3 million to help FNUC students finish school year
Federal Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Chuck Strahl announced last week his department will invest up to $3 million to allow students currently enrolled at the First Nations University of Canada to complete their academic year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

A humanist approach to the global financial meltdown

BookReview

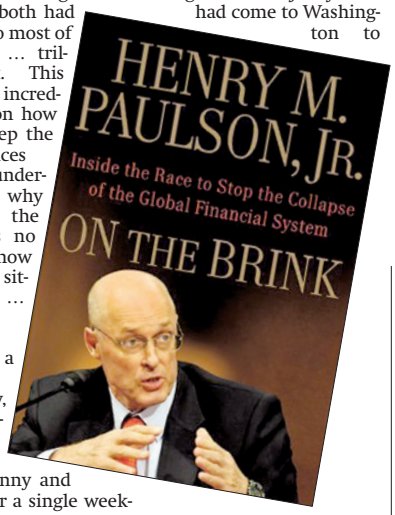
On the **Brink**
Author: Henry M. Paulson Jr.
Publisher: Business Plus
Price: $34.99

CRAIG LUND
for Metro Canada

Imagine being given the power to make a decision that could potentially cause or prevent the total collapse of the global financial system.

In the case of Henry M. Paulson Jr., then Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, he had this power or as most would see it, burden. No stranger to the financial world, Paulson came into the position in 2006, leaving behind the role of CEO for Goldman Sachs. One year later, Paulson was in the dead centre of the largest financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Paulson starts out his book at the height of an intense decision that was weighed in by then-president George W. Bush. The decision at hand was how to deal with Freddie Mac and Fanny Mae, two mega housing finance giants, who both had sold debt to most of the world … trillions of it. This book sheds incredible light on how far and deep the circumstances were, and understandably why most of the public has no clue as to how severe the situation was … and still is.



Chapter One sees a unforeseeable victory, the successful conservatorship of both Fanny and Freddy over a single weekend. Paulson describes the huge sense of relief felt from this accomplishment; congratulations came from local and international borrowers including the Chinese. The Chinese also cautioned Paulson to not let his guard down just yet. "I had come to Washington to make a difference, and we had, I thought, just saved the country — and the world — from financial catastrophe" said Paulson. The next day Lehman Brothers began to collapse.

His story paints the sense of pressure and urgency that went on at a constant pace for those involved.

It's told frankly and paints a very humanist picture of those faced with protecting a nation.

Craig Lund, a director with the staffing firm Marketers on Demand, can be reached at craig.lund@marketersondemand.com

Workology in **brief**

UMANITOBA FOOTBALL STADIUM PROJECT ACCELERATED Representatives from the Manitoba government, City of Winnipeg, Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and the University of Manitoba announced last week a plan to accelerate construction of a new $115-million community-owned football stadium at the University of Manitoba. Construction of the stadium will begin this summer, with an opening in time for the 2012 CFL and Bison football seasons.

UBC STUDENT PUB LOSES LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SERVING MINORS University of British Columbia administrators have ordered an on-campus pub to stop serving alcohol until further notice after "three strikes" of being caught serving underage patrons. Although the pub is operated by the university's Graduate Student Society, UBC controls the liquor license, which was rescinded as of two Fridays ago. A letter signed by UBC's legal counsel states the university is no longer confident the graduate student government can operate the pub in a manner that observes liquor laws and promotes responsible drinking.

STU LAUNCHES FEASIBILITY STUDY ON PROGRAMMING FOR SATELLITE CAMPUS St. Thomas University has commissioned a feasibility study on potential programs for a proposed satellite campus in Miramichi, N.B. The study will involve consultations with key education and business stakeholders in the region and a review of what program possibilities and financial impact the "college of extension" could have for STU and the New Brunswick government. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Andrews keeps dancing, despite threats

ESPN correspondent Erin Andrews has vowed to continue competing on Dancing With the Stars despite learning about emailed death threats. "She's not the type to be easily threatened," her attorney said. PEOPLE.COM

Entertainment

Badu fined

Singer Erykah Badu was fined $500 US after she stripped nude and pretended to be shot in the head in the same Dallas plaza where former U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. TVGUIDE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Charlie Sheen set to leave Men: report

Sheen

TV Charlie Sheen is looking at a future without Two and a Half Men.

According to a person close to the actor, Sheen has told friends that he wants to leave the hit TV comedy in which he's starred for seven years.

The person spoke Thursday on condition of anonymity because Sheen had made the remarks in private and had not intended them to be discussed publicly.

The show's network, CBS, had no comment, spokesman Phil Gonzales said. An after-hours call to Sheen's representatives was not immediately returned. Two and a Half Men, which also stars Jon Cryer, is the top-rated comedy on TV and a key part of CBS' Monday night lineup. Last year, CBS gave the show a three-year renewal, through the 2011-12 season, but Sheen's contract is up at the end of the current season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A piece of sci-fi history

Boba Fett actor still putting on costume 30 years after Empire Strikes Back

It's been almost 30 years since The Empire Strikes Back debuted, but for Jeremy Bulloch, better known as bounty hunter Boba Fett in the second film in the original Star Wars trilogy, it never gets old.

Rarely a day goes by without someone wanting to talk to the 65-year-old actor about his most famous role. Which is even more impressive considering that, without the iconic Boba Fett mask, he wouldn't exactly stand out in a crowd.

But at a packed comic convention he is royalty, the man behind one of the most-loved characters in the Star Wars canon and a particular favourite of series' diehards.

Their neverending adoration makes him proudly embrace his place in sci-fi history and talking to Star Wars geeks never gets old, he said in a recent interview.

"I'm not one of those people who says, 'Look, I've moved on, I'm now doing Shakespeare, I'm playing King Lear at the Royal Court (in London).' I'm very proud to have been a part of Star Wars, I'm very proud to have been playing Boba Fett," he said.

"I think I'm terribly lucky and I'm very fortunate to be part of this massive trilogy, the original trilogy we did, and I feel terribly lucky that Boba Fett became very popular. To me I still find it quite difficult to take in how popular he is."

Bulloch is still active on the fan convention circuit in between other acting gigs and has mastered the technique of courtesy and deflection in dealing with fans' queries, both the banal and the borderline obsessive.

"You still have to answer every fan as if it's the first time I've heard the question because I think it's awful to say, 'Well yes, of course, the suit was hot,' and get cross with them," he said.

"About 99.9 per cent of the fans are absolutely magnificent and they're the ones who have kept this going."

JENNIFER GRAYLOCK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jeremy Bulloch is best known for playing bounty hunter Boba Fett in the second Star Wars movie The Empire Strikes Back.

When it comes to obscure questions of trivia or complaints about what should have been, Bulloch has a stock answer ready.

"There's the 35 year olds who always have something to say, 'I think this should happen, and why did they do this?' . . . Then I had a five-year-old who literally came up and said, 'Mr. Bulloch, can you tell me a little bit more about the E-33 blaster rifle you carried?'

"You still have to answer every fan as if it's the first time I've heard the question because I think it's awful to say, 'Well yes, of course, the suit was hot,' and get cross with them." Jeremy Bulloch

"I usually say, 'Well I can't answer your question because it's classified information.' That gets me out of any hole if they ask me tricky questions."

If he has any regrets, he just wishes Boba Fett could've lived a little longer in the series and "been a nuisance to Hans Solo and Chewbacca."

"Unfortunately, I went into the sarlacc and that was it. I wished I'd stayed on, I was a little bit disappointed that Boba Fett was got rid of so quickly."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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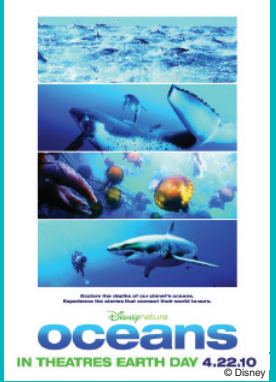

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Last month Grammy Award-winning rapper Lil Wayne was sentenced to a year in jail for having a loaded gun on his tour bus.

Wayne's hopeful website message

Lil Wayne wants his fans to know that his spirit and love will "never be confined to prison walls."

The Grammy Award-winning rapper's message was posted Friday to his new website. He was sentenced in March to a year in jail for having a loaded gun on his tour bus.

The 27-year-old says he's in good spirits and thinks about his four children every day. He says: "I just hope my love and adoration for them provides a temporary bandage on a wound I unknowingly inflicted on them."

Lil Wayne also says he'll be blogging soon for ESPN.

But ESPN the Magazine's Editor-in-Chief Gary Belsky says there are no plans for him to blog at the moment.

His Tha Carter III was the 2008 best-selling album and won a Grammy for best rap album.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Devo donates iconic hat

MUSIC The oddball rock group Devo has donated one of the red conical hats from its hit video Whip It to an Ohio museum.

The Ohio Historical Society says it has received a small collection of artifacts from the band and its official archivist. The items include stickers, T-shirts, costumes and a flower pot-style hat worn in the band's memorable 1980 video.

Three of the band's founding members grew up in Akron and met at Kent State University in the 1970s.

The group's name came from a theory the human race is in a process of devolution, which members read about in an anti-Darwinism pamphlet.

The band most recently performed in Ohio in 2008 for Barack Obama's presidential campaign. An annual DEVOtional convention is held in Cleveland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Box office

1. **Clash of the Titans:** $61.4 million
2. **Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married Too?:** $30.2 million
3. **How to Train Your Dragon:** $29.2 million
4. **The Last Song:** $16.2 million
5. **Alice in Wonderland:** $8.3 million US
6. **Hot Tub Time Machine:** $8 million
7. **The Bounty Hunter:** $6.2 million
8. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid:** $5.5 million
9. **She's Out of My League:** $1.463 million
10. **Shutter Island:** $1.462 million

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VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 4/5/10	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	18 to Life (N)	Little Mosque	Winnipeg Comedy		CBC News: The National		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	Two/Half Men	Big Bang	Hiccups (N)	Dan for Mayor	Law & Order (CC)		CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	Daily Weekend Edition (CC)		Poltergeist: The Legacy		P3	Diya	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	24 Trusted confidantes become enemies. (N) (PA) (CC)				Cold Blood "Dirty Deeds"		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	TMZ (N) (CC)	Dancing With the Stars (Same-day Tape) (CC)				(:02) Castle (N) (CC)		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	How I Met	How I Met	Trauma "Scope of Practice"		Chuck (N) (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Life Unexpected (N) (CC)		Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	College Basketball			Big Bang	Engagement	News	The Insider	Entertainment	KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Chuck (N) (CC)		Trauma "Scope of Practice"		Law & Order (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Supernanny "Webb Family"		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It "Shanahan"		Love It-List It
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars (Same-day Tape) (CC)				(:02) Castle (N) (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	26 KVOS	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Population 436 (2006, Suspense) Jeremy Sisto, Fred Durst.				Seinfeld	King	Cold Files
	291	383	27 PBS	Conver-KCTS	Antique Show	Antiques Roadshow (N) (CC)		The Mormons Mormon past, science, doctrines. (Part 1 of 2)				Swimming
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	24 Trusted confidantes become enemies. (N) (PA) (CC)				Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	33 PBS	(6:00) The Mormons		Being Served	Keeping Up	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Antiques Roadshow (CC)	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	The Office	Name Is Earl	South Park	Half & Half	Paid Program	Street Court	Cold Files
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Life Unexpected (N) (CC)		Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		KTLA 5 News at 10 (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury (CC)	
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Inside Edition	(:05) Seinfeld	Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson	
news	502	390	29 NW	Jelly Fish Invasion (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Jelly Fish Invasion (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (N) (CC)				Larry King Live (CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Oakland Athletics. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:30) NHL Hockey Minnesota Wild at Edmonton Oilers. (CC)				SportsCentre	Rally	World Series of Poker		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Destination Truth (CC)		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Ghost Hunters
	410	403	54 SCR	College Basketball NCAA Tournament, Final: Teams TBA.				WWE Monday Night RAW With Michael Cole and Jerry Lawler.				Cabby Unlimit
	417	406	55 SC	NASCAR	What's Deal?	Car Crazy	NASCAR Hub	Fast Track to Fame		Racing Chef	NASCAR	NASCAR
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Español		La Liga 360		Gol TV News	Hallo	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	iCarly (CC)	Scorpion	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	Things I Hate	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Johnny Test	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards of Waverly Place The Movie (2009)			Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Little Bear	Toopy	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Recreat. Eden	Landscape	Empire of the Word (CC)		The Art of Painting		The Boys of Buchenwald (N)		Graduates
	575	583	20 CMT	Coyote Ugly	All About	Live at the Jubilee		Coyote Ugly ★ (2000, Romance-Comedy) Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia.				
	570	580	24 MM	Love Court	Love Court	UR11		Secret Life of American Teen		America's Best Dance Crew		Video on Trial
	600	564	29 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Home to Flip	Bang, Buck	For Rent	Marriage	House
	615	520	31 A&E	Runaway Squad Tayvela is 15.		Hoarders "Janet; Christina"		(:01) Intervention "Brad"		(:01) Intervention "Rocky"		Runaway Sq.
	628	584	32 SPKE	(:08) UFC Unleashed (CC)		(:08) The Ultimate Fighter		(:08) DEA		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Trek: Voyager
	521	560	34 TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Little People	Little People	Ultimate Cake Off (CC)		Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Little People
	616	522	39 SHO	Relic Hunter "So Shall It Be"		NYC: Tornado Terror (2008, Suspense) Nicole de Boer. (CC)				Misfits (N) (CC)		Survivors
	620	523	40 BVO	Willie Nelson	Africa	Law & Order "Past Imperfect"		Without a Trace (CC)		Willie Nelson-Wynton Marsalis		
	601	562	41 SLC	The Millionaire Matchmaker		ET Canada	Whatever	Real Housewives, Orange		Real Housewives, Orange		Runway
	520	505	42 DIS	Canada's Worst Handyman		Destroyed	Destroyed	MythBusters Baseball myths.		Destroyed	Destroyed	Destroyed
	522	506	44 HIS	Elizabeth: The Golden Age		Aftermath "World Without Oil"		Ancient Weather (N) (CC)		Cities of the Underworld		Ancient-Bad
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Crimson Force (2005)		Comic-Con	Stargate SG-1 "Forsaken"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)	
	294	650	47 TBS	House/Payne	House/Payne	Lopez Tonight (N)		Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Re-Vamped (CC)		Wipeout (CC)		Wipeout Couples compete. (N)		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Prod. Parker
	603	561	52 FN	Top Chef (CC)		Top Chef (CC)		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Pitchin' In
	-	-	53 AMC	Wrong Turn ★★ (2003, Horror) Desmond Harrington. (CC)				Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers ★★ (1988) (CC)				Halloween 5
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Bobby Slayton: Born		Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(5:55) Blindness ★★ (2008)		Spartacus: Blood and Sand		Nurse Jackie	U.S. of Tara	Wild Things	Nights in Rodanthe ★★ (CC)	
	581	566	101 MTV	My Life as Liz	After	MTV Live	Sex News	Taking, Stage	Super Sweet	My Life as Liz	After	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Unscripted	Naked	Poltergeist: The Legacy		The Verdict ★★★ (1982, Drama) Paul Newman, Charlotte Rampling. (CC)				
	-	-	106 MUL	My Queen	Immortal	Lying Low		Simply the	Pinoy Buzz	Wish Ko Lang!	News	Patrol World

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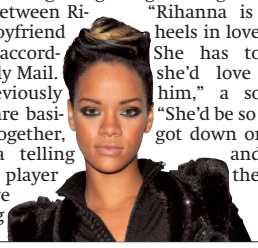
Conrad blames Jackson

New information obtained by TMZ suggests that lawyers for Dr. Conrad Murray, who faces a manslaughter charge in Michael Jackson's death, will argue that Jackson himself administered the fatal dose of Propofol, popeater.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

She's in love

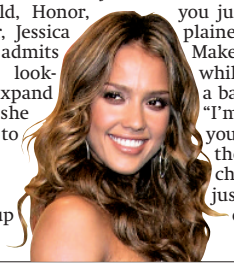
HE CAN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN HER LAST BOYFRIEND RIGHT? Things have been getting very serious between Rihanna and boyfriend Matt Kemp, according to the Daily Mail. Sources previously said the two are basically living together, with Rihanna telling the baseball player he could move in after spring training, and now sources say the pair are considering marriage.



"Rihanna is head-over-heels in love with Matt. She has told friends she'd love to marry him," a source says. "She'd be so happy if he got down on one knee and popped the question." METRO WORLD NEWS

Alba ready to adopt?

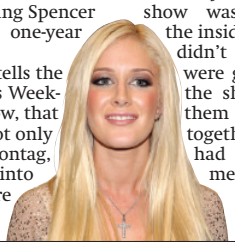
JUST DON'T GET ADVICE FROM MADONNA While she and Cash Warren already have one child, Honor, together, Jessica Alba admits they're looking to expand — and she wants to adopt.



"My mom grew up around a huge family, and they always wanted more kids, and I was like, 'Why don't you just adopt?'" Alba explained on an Extreme Makeover: Home Edition while helping renovate a backyard for a family. "I'm totally inspired. If you have the love, and the capacity to love children, you should just adopt. And I plan on doing it." METRO WORLD NEWS

Heidi upset at divorce talk

SO WAIT THE HILLS USES CREATIVE EDITING? In a new Hills trailer, Heidi Montag declares she didn't think she'd be divorcing Spencer Pratt on their one-year anniversary.



But a source tells the new issue of Us Weekly, on stands now, that the couple is not only fine — but Montag, 23, was misled into saying they're splitting. "They tricked Heidi into saying she was divorcing him for an episode tease, before they told her the show was canceled," the insider says. "She didn't realize they were going to end the show without them getting back together." (MTV had no comment.) METRO WORLD NEWS

Newton-John's ex found alive

A SUMMER LOVE THAT DIDN'T LAST The former partner of actress Olivia Newton-John, who went missing five years ago on an overnight fishing trip, is living a new life in a Mexican seaside village, the U.K.'s Daily Mail is reporting.

Patrick McDermott vanished in 2005 after ending his nine-year romance with the Grease star. Now the Daily Mail is reporting he is living in the Mexican village of Sayulita and working as a ship's mate on a tourist yacht. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bieber no fan of make-up

I BET HIS MOM TOLD HIM TO SAY THAT Justin Bieber likes natural-looking girls, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 16-year-old star hates it when women try too hard with their appearance in order to grab his attention and wishes they would wear fewer cosmetics.

He said: "I don't like girls who wear lots of make-up and you can't see their face. Some girls are beautiful but insecure and look much better without the make-up, but decide to put loads on. I like girls with nice eyes and a nice smile." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bullock ready to move out, move on

I THINK SHE IS GONNA LET JESSE KEEP THE NAZI UNIFORM A moving truck showed up over the weekend at the house Sandra Bullock shared with Jesse James, according to TMZ, signaling that the Oscar-winning actress may be moving ahead with plans to separate from her husband after his alleged cheating scandal.

The movers reportedly removed a sofa, a love seat and several boxes, while a man and woman supervising the move packed their own cars with more items. Bullock was not present.

With their dad in rehab in Arizona and stepmother Bullock out of the house, Jesse James' three kids have been staying "with a woman who looks like a grandmother-type," a source tells Us Weekly.

The source says that Chandler, 15, Jesse Jr., 12, and Sunny, 6, "are very comfortable with the woman. Earlier in the week the woman took Sunny to a local park after school." METRO WORLD NEWS

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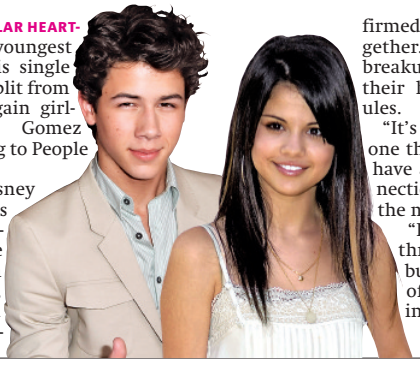
Perez's faux-pas

IT'S BEST TO LOOK AROUND BEFORE YOU MOCK Lindsay Lohan found herself the butt of the joke at a Star magazine party recently when blogger Perez Hilton asked the assembled crowd for "a minute of silence for Lindsay Lohan," not realizing the Mean Girls star was in the room.

"Everybody cringed, but Lindsay seemed dazed and just stared into space," a source tells Page Six. METRO WORLD NEWS

Jonas, Gomez no more

HE'S JUST A REGULAR HEARTBREAKER The youngest Jonas Brother is single again, having split from on-again, off-again girlfriend Selena Gomez again, according to People magazine.



Fellow Disney stars Nick Jonas and Gomez reportedly broke things off again last month, though they'd never confirmed they were back together. Sources say the breakup is due mostly to their hectic work schedules.

"It's evident to everyone that they will always have a super strong connection," a source tells the magazine.

"It's never fun to go through a breakup but Selena has a lot of friends she's leaning on for support." METRO WORLD NEWS

Bale wants to be a U.S. citizen

IF SCREAMING MAKES YOU A GOOD AMERICAN THAN HE IS A SHOE-IN British actor Christian Bale has applied to become an U.S. citizen, according to tabloid reports. The American Psycho star has lived stateside for nearly 20 years and is married to an American, former model Sibi Blazic. The actor left his native Wales in 1976, lived in Europe and settled in the U.S., femalefirst.co.uk reports. And according to U.S. magazine Star, he has decided to officially make the country his home. Bale and Blazic currently reside in Los Angeles with the couple's daughter, Emmeline.

A spokesperson for the actor had not responded to requests for comment as Wenn went to press. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

JOHN MAYER is thinking about the future, **PARIS HILTON** is thinking about staying in, **JIM CARREY** is thinking too much to get to sleep, and **JESSICA SIMPSON** is thinking about a career change.

@johncmayer
I wonder if 20 years from now my brothers and I will be getting cosmetic surgery just as gags to make each other laugh.

@ParisHilton
Just left Best Buy. I love that store, they have everything! Bought a bunch of electronics and dvd's. Movie night again tonight.

@JimCarrey
I know this sounds weird but I lose sleep when I'm in a good mood! Brain likes to play hopscotch!

@JessicaSimpson
Is there an accelerated learning program to become an asteroid miner? If so, I'm in. METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

Pattinson afraid of strangers

AND HE REFUSES TO TAKE CANDY FROM THEM TOO Robert Pattinson gets "paranoid" whenever new people approach him, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actor reckons fame has ruined his social skills and he now can't help being suspicious whenever fans he doesn't know approach him.

He told The Sun newspaper: "Being well known is a real burden. I'm less open and have noticed that I'm actually getting paranoid. If people push themselves on me I find it grueling and repulsive.

"If I even think someone wants to approach me I feel the need to scream, 'What do you want of me?'" METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Wednesday Rain 80% 11°/5°
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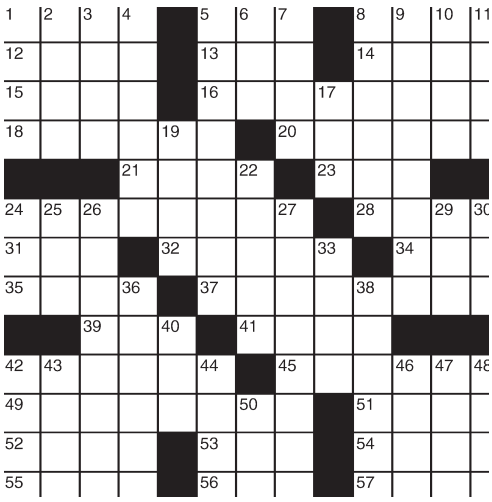
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Datum
5 Handheld computer, for short
8 Cover of gloom
12 Capri, e.g.
13 Lummox
14 Hodgepodge
15 They follow exes and wyes
16 Specters
18 Buxom
20 Matures
21 Blunders
23 Louis —
24 Ancient Egyptian rulers
28 Morays, e.g.
31 Tummy muscles
32 Miniskirt creator Mary
34 Knock
35 Rolling stone's lack
37 Drugstore
39 Resistance measure
41 Fix, in a sense
42 Mexican state
45 Fool's gold
49 Strictly obser-vant one, in biblical times
51 Walked (on)
52 "— Misbehavin' "
53 Rocky peak
54 TV journalist Lisa
55 Youngsters
56 Donkey
57 Being, to Brutus

DOWN

1 Effervescence
2 On the briny
3 Staff leader?
4 Perfumery employee
5 Band in "Billboard," maybe
6 Doo follower
7 Distant
8 Crust-covered entree
9 Skin cream ingredient
10 Depict
11 Privation
17 Put the kibosh on
19 Baghdad's country
22 Bygone Persian bigwigs
24 Shriver of tennis
25 Showtime rival
26 Having the same vowel sounds
27 "Red" types of sport fish
29 Fond du —, Wis.
30 007, for one
33 Salver
36 Summertime garb
38 — Beach, S.C.
40 X-ray machine's successor (Abbr.)
42 Lovers' quarrel
43 Cleveland's state
44 "The Thin Man" dog
46 Rainbow
47 Heavy weights
48 Advantage
50 Dawn goddess

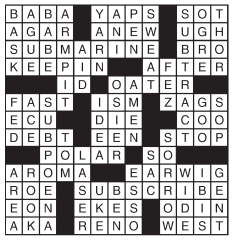
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	5		1	3	6		7	
3								1
		1				9		
5	7		3		8		1	4
				4				
2	8		6		5		9	3
		6				5		
7								2
	2		9	8	3		6	

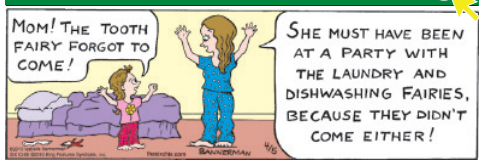
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



7	9	4	8	3	5	6	1	2
2	5	3	4	6	1	8	9	7
6	1	8	7	9	2	3	4	5
9	6	7	2	5	4	1	8	3
4	2	1	3	8	7	5	6	9
8	3	5	9	1	6	2	7	4
3	7	2	6	4	8	9	5	1
1	4	6	5	2	9	7	3	8
5	8	9	1	7	3	4	2	6

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca


MOM! THE TOOTH FAIRY FORGOT TO COME!
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN AT A PARTY WITH THE LAUNDRY AND DISHWASHING FAIRIES, BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T COME EITHER!
SANDERSON

Metro Recipe of the Day

Healthier Stovetop Mac and Cheese

A great mac and cheese can be easy. And healthy.

The secret? Whole-wheat pasta shells and a can of squash or pumpkin puree. The latter ingredient may sound odd, but it really is an easy way to add vitamin-packed produce to a dish otherwise devoid of vegetables.

The creme fraiche (you could substitute sour cream, even low-fat sour cream) and Parmesan cheese lend wonderfully creamy and savoury flavours that make the pumpkin seem like a natural for the sauce. A bit of crisped prosciutto also adds tons of flavour. It's a smart choice over bacon for a healthier dish.

INGREDIENTS:

340 g (12 oz) medium whole-wheat pasta shells
15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
4 slices (about 60 g/2 oz) prosciutto, finely chopped
1 can (398 ml/14 oz) pumpkin or squash puree (not pumpkin pie filling)
125 ml (4 oz) creme fraiche
2 ml (1/2 tsp) hot sauce
1 ml (1/4 tsp) cumin
50 ml (1/4 cup) Parmesan cheese
Salt and ground black pepper, to taste

METHOD:

Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook according to package directions. Drain and set aside.

Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan over medium, heat olive oil. Add prosciutto and cook until just crisp, about 3 minutes. Add pumpkin, creme fraiche, hot sauce, cumin and Parmesan. Cook, stirring often, until hot.

Add pasta to sauce and toss well to coat. Season with salt and pepper.

SERVES 4

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Keep your head down today and steer clear of people who may not agree with your way of doing things.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You will find yourself up against someone every bit as stubborn as yourself today, and a stalemate is the most likely outcome.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Something dramatic will happen this week, something that has been building up for quite some time. You'll be prepared.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Today's aspects make it easy to change but difficult to change back again if things don't work out the way you expected.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Being a Leo you tend to follow your impulses and to hell with everyone else but that is unlikely to work today.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
So you failed at something? So what? At least it is evidence that you attempted to do something out of the ordinary.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You need to remember that challenge and opportunity are two sides of the same coin. You win either way.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
A creative idea can be made to work, but if there is even the shadow of a doubt in your mind your enemies will sense that fact.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You won't be content to sit back and watch the parade go by this week — you want to be out there making things happen.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't worry if you tread on other people's toes today – it's their fault for not moving fast enough. You don't have time to play silly games.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Today there is certainly the potential for conflict, but there is also the potential for getting your point of view across so no one misunderstands.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Keep moving along the path you have been travelling these past few months and don't let criticism or cynicism deflect you from your goals.

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